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COUNTRY

Burma

Tin and Tungsten Production in Burma--

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General Situation

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- When Burma achieved its independence there came to pass a complete deterioration of mining statistics. By paying squeeze to government officials, mining representatives are able to falsify the actual production figures, thereby paying a smaller mine pit royalty. For instance, for August 1949 the official figures show a production of 8 tons of tin in Mergui District when Thawbawleik alone produced some 28 tons.
- For the year 1948, the producers believe that about 1,400 tons of tungsten concentrates (65 percent tungstic oxide) and 2,200 tons of tin concentrates (72 percent tin) were mined. These figures are termed minimum estimates. Because of prevalent chaotic conditions no estimates for the 1949 production have been made.
- Considering the Mawchi mine and mill which have been repaired, and the conditions at the mines and dredges in the Tavoy and Lergui areas it is estimated that these areas could produce amounts of tin and tungsten equal to two-thirds of the country's 1938 output, providing reasonable operating conditions prevail.
- The Government of Burma is determined to build a tin smelter in Burma for the processing of tin concentrates even though mining experts agree that the venture would be too costly and unwarranted.
- Before the war, there were four magnetic separators in Burma operated by 5. Consolidated Tin Mines, High Speed Steel Alloys, Teh Lu Pe and Quah Cheng Juan. The separators belonging to Teh Lu Pe and High Speed Steel Alloys were known to be operating during 1949, but it is not known if the others were in operation. Ahmed Co. had one small separator operating in Mergui during 1949.
- Since government regulations severly curtail removal of profits from Burma 6. by a company, mining companies have resorted to bribing customs' officers, usually by paying them two percent of the total value of the shipment. Most of the areas, with the exception of Tavoy and wergui which ship locally, use Rangoon as a port of shipment. Tin concentrates are usually shipped

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directly to Penang and Singapore for transshipment. Some tin goes directly to England, and there is no evidence of any tin going directly to northern Europe.

- 7. Tah Lu Pe, in 1949, shipped 400 tons of tungsten concentrates to Gothenburg Sweden via East Asiatic boats. Some tungsten was shipped to England but was believed to have been transshipped. Teh Lu Pe reportedly falsifies the weight on shipping documents which enables the company to be paid for unrecorded amounts in foreign exchange which is then converted in the black market to rupees at a substantial profit.
- 8. The East Asiatic Co. in Rangoon has shipped small quantities of tin and tungsten to Gothenburg, such shipments being arranged through the main office in Denmark. Most of the tin shipped in this manner came from Yunnan, China. The Tennasserim Trading Co. claimed that they had some 200 tons of tin metal at Bhamo which originally came from Consolidated Tin of Yunnan. Investigation revealed the actual figure to be 12 tons.

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